

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1 to 16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Currently amended): Microparticles stable and storable at room temperature of insulin, ~~optionally in association with excipients selected from the group consisting of saccharides, polysaccharides, aminoacids, phospholipids and polyalcohol, said microparticles.~~

~~— being obtained by spray drying an aqueous solution of insulin having an acid pH under the isoelectric point (5.4) of insulin and a concentration of insulin in amounts of from 5 to 100 mg/ml,~~

- showing a d90 volume diameter lower than 9  $\mu$ m,  
- 80% of them exhibiting an aerodynamic diameter lower than 5  $\mu$ m,

- having corrugated or raisin-like surface and containing  
~~less than 10% by weight of salts,~~

- having a moisture content in the range of 2 to 8%, wherein  
said microparticles being obtained by spray drying an aqueous  
solution of insulin having an acid pH under the isoelectric point

(5.4) of insulin and a concentration of insulin in amounts of  
from 5 to 100 mg/ml, said aqueous solution being to be spray  
~~dried~~ is prepared in an unbuffered aqueous solution of acetic acid.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): Microparticles according to claim 17 having a tapped density lower than 0.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): Microparticles according to claim 18, wherein insulin is in association with excipients selected from the group consisting of saccharides, polysaccharides, amino acids, phospholipids and polyalcohol ~~said excipient is mannitol~~.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): Microparticles according to claim 17 containing insulin in amorphous form.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): ~~Pharmaceutical compositions suitable to be inhaled containing the microparticles~~  
Microparticles according to claim 17 19, wherein said excipient is mannitol.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): Pharmaceutical compositions suitable to be inhaled ~~consisting of~~ comprising the microparticles according to claim 17.